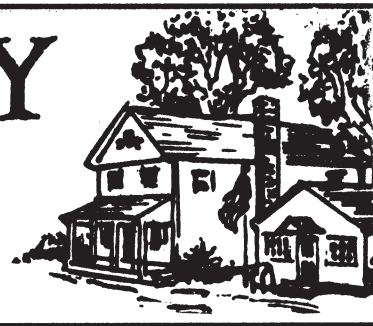




MONTEREY NEWS

April 2006
VOLUME XXXVI • Number 4



The Town

Earth Day Cleanup

The Select Board announced that on Saturday, April 22, Monterey will celebrate Earth Day with a town cleanup. Those interested in being good citizens of Monterey and the earth more generally should meet at the firehouse pavilion at 9:00 a.m. with gloves and sturdy shoes. Volunteers will walk along the road-

side with trash bags that Police Chief Gareth Backhaus plans to get from the Massachusetts Highway Department. The Monterey Highway Department will pick up the filled bags. It should go without saying, but won't, that children are encouraged to participate, but only if accompanied by an adult. The cleanup ends at noon with a hot dog party at the firehouse pavilion for the Earth Day volunteers.

Town Hall

The Select Board has scheduled an informational meeting on Friday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Firehouse to discuss articles on the Warrant for the May 6th Annual Town Meeting. All citizens are strongly encouraged to attend to be better informed about issues that will come up at the Town Meeting.

Melissa Noe, Town Secretary, reported on a change in color for the 2006–2007



Police Chief Gareth Backhaus displays the new four-wheel-drive police cruiser. (See story p. 5.)

transfer station permits. She asked the Select Board to clarify the office hours of the Town Clerk so that they can be posted on the town website.

Select Board chair Michèle Miller announced that Linda Thorpe has resigned as the town Memorial Day coordinator, and asked that anyone interested in overseeing the Monterey Memorial Day festivities contact the town office.

Babysitting services will be provided during the Saturday, May 6th, annual Town Meeting for attendees who need them.

Miller noted that the meeting on Fairview Road, scheduled for Monday, April 10, will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the meetinghouse basement, not at town hall.

Highway Department

A great deal of time and energy has been spent on the question of hiring a fourth employee for the Highway Department, the idea being that this would save the town money currently spent on the Highway Superintendent's overtime during the snow season. In addition to plowing, the proposal is that the new employee would take over mowing of town cemeteries, parks, and the library lawn. But as this issue goes to press, it appears questionable

whether the theoretical fourth employee will be hired, due primarily to objections by the Cemetery, Parks, and Library boards to the mowing component, which is currently overseen by the individual boards. Without the mowing aspect to the job, it is economically untenable to hire another employee, and thus Highway Superintendent Maynard Forbes would continue his plowing work.

Among the many strands of thought threaded through this issue is that of the appropriate level of sand and salt spread on town roads, an issue of sufficient concern that a committee will be formed to review road treatment and maintenance. Such a committee was broached at an earlier meeting when Lewis Scheffey expressed his concern about what he believes is the heavy use of salt on snowy roads. Miller asked to be part of the committee.

The Conservation Commission became involved in the dispute about the troublesome trees in Rawson Brook by granting permission to the town to take care of the problem. Forbes said that if the property owners get the trees out of the river, the Highway Department will haul them away.

Forbes announced that after receiving the third bid for the hot air/gas furnace for Bally Gally, Gennari won as the lowest bidder.

Janet and Hillel Maximon, Beartown Mountain Road residents, thanked the

Select Board for the repair work done on their road, which is in far better condition this year.

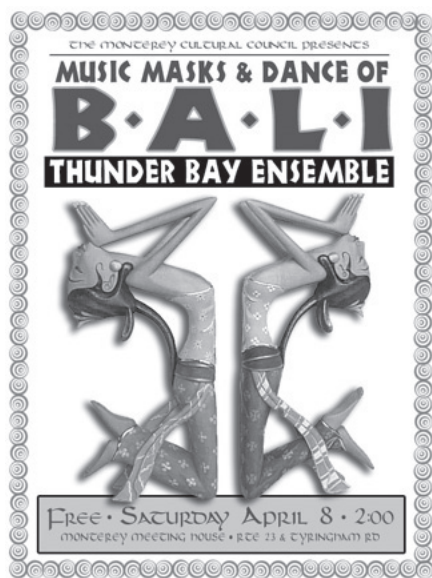
Roadside Tree Cutting

Tamarack, the company hired by the utility company to trim trees in and around wires, continues its work, but with some controversy. Although the Highway Superintendent and the Tree Warden Roger Tryon approved Tamarack's list of trees to be cut, Tryon's subsequent change of mind interfered briefly with the company's progress.

Ann McGinley told the Select Board of her concerns about the proposal to cut down a large clump of oak trees along New Marlborough Road on her property. She believes the Tree Warden should post signs on live, healthy trees that are scheduled for removal but do not need to be cut, and hold a hearing to air the issue.

In an effort to resolve the question of which trees could be cut, the Select Board requested that the Tree Warden hold a hearing on designated trees in the town's right-of-way. Such a hearing was held, although the Town Clerk's interpretation of its conditions may have rendered its outcome questionable.

Select Board member Jon Sylbert suggested that to diminish the effects of the tree cutting when stumps are too high and near the road, Forbes should request that Tamarack revisit the site and rectify their



The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.



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Saturday, April 29, 2006, 6:00 pm
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error. The Monterey Highway Department picks up felled trees within a week or so of Tamarack's action.

Forbes and Tryon will mark trees on Fairview Road before the April 10th public meeting on the road.

Community Center Progress

Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House (FWMH) Committee member Joe Baker presented the first quarterly report from the committee to the Select Board reporting their progress on making the Monterey Community Center a reality. Three architects have been interviewed for the necessary first-step renovation of the house, and one was to be chosen by the end of March. Baker was pleased to announce that a "quiet" fund raising for seed money raised \$18,000, 20 percent more than they had anticipated. The committee will be mailing a brochure with a survey in late April. And the committee is hiring a consultant to do a hazardous material inventory of the house. (See related story on p. 15.)

Finance Committee member Debra Mielke offered to help the FWMH with their bookkeeping. With the enthusiastic support of the Select Board, Mielke will

use the Finance Committee's computer for the FWMH.

Police Department

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reviewed various and sundry police matters, such as a motor vehicle accident on Tyringham Road, a downed tree/wire on Corashire, false alarms on Stevens Way and Hupi Road, false alarms at Town Hall and the Library, abandoned 911 calls, and a disabled motor vehicle on Pixley Road, plus assistance in finding a missing person at Gould Farm, assistance on a medical call on Art School Road, investigation into the deeded rights of a private property owner, and assistance in rounding up cows roaming around Fairview Road.

After Ray Tryon resigned as the town Emergency Manager, the Select Board began discussions with Backhaus, who was appointed to the position for a three-year term.

Building Issues

Building Commissioner Don Torrico told the Select Board that the zoning bylaws in neighboring towns specify that buildings may be 35 feet high or 2½ stories. Monterey, however, uses the state formulation, which allows buildings to be 35 feet or 3 stories. The bylaw is not clear on how the 35 feet is measured; specifically, is it

from the lowest part of the ground to the eaves of the roof or to the roof line? There can be a different of 12 to 20 feet in height depending on how the 35-foot limitation is defined and measured.


The Select Board may ask the Planning Board to formulate a bylaw revision addressing the number of allowable stories and height. Torrico pointed out that there are a number of issues involved with determining the appropriate height, among them fire safety.

Torrico will send letters reminding camps that they need to pass inspections before their season begins. He also said that Gould Farm needs to give the state the appropriate paperwork on who will be living in their new group residence. Torrico and Fire Chief Tryon will perform a fire drill there.


Building Dept. Committee

The four members of the Building Department Support Committee—Bill Johnson, Brian Puntin, Dan Moriarty, and Kenn Basler—made a preliminary report to the Select Board in mid-March. The committee met with elected officials and inspectors in Sandisfield, Otis, and New Marlborough, and was scheduled to do so in Tyringham. They found that building inspectors in neighboring towns are feeling overwhelmed because of current

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growth patterns, which are as robust as those in Monterey. The committee expects that Monterey can expect a 20–25 percent increase in building permits next year. This year the town issued one hundred permits.

The committee believes the department's budget should provide Torrico with fourteen hours a week, with clerical help two to four hours per week. The committee heard suggestions that neighboring towns share inspectors, a procedure followed elsewhere in Berkshire County. One possibility is to share a building inspector with Otis and Sandisfield.

In the course of his job, Torrico deals with the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. All three boards report that their conversations and interactions with Torrico are professional, clear, and concise, although Planning Board Chair Maggie Leonard acknowledged that there has not been a lot of interaction with her committee. Peter Murkett, chairman of the ZBA, has high praise for the quality of information his board receives from Torrico.

The committee said that Torrico's compensation is in line with what is expected for the Building Commissioner position. The committee said that town residents have to realize that professionals need to be paid appropriately. The committee said further that it would be happy to talk about this issue at Town Meeting. The committee will hold a public informational meeting on Building Department issues on Monday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. (See related article on p. 10.)

Since Torrico and the Board of Assessors share information, Johnson is investigating software that could be shared between them.

Budgets and Taxes

The Finance Committee has been working on the 2006–2007 budget. Committee member Debra Mielke had questions about who has jurisdiction over the maintenance of town parks. The issue arose because of complications with the compatibility of a three-year contract for services with a one-year budget. Town Counsel will be asked about this issue.

Stan Ross, chairman of the Board of Assessors, recommended to the Select

Board that Monterey continue to have one tax rate for residential, commercial, industrial, open space, and personal property, all based on full evaluation. The Select Board accepted his recommendation. The Assessors have completed their revaluation of all properties in Monterey and have set the tax rate for the current fiscal year at \$5.29/\$1,000; the new rate and valuations are reflected in the fourth quarter tax bills, to be mailed March 31. (See article p. 21.)

This and That

Joe Baker of the Cultural Council announced that the Labor Day weekend "I Love Monterey Day" celebration will include a photography contest, with submissions welcomed from photographers of all ages. This competition evolved after the Select Board mentioned that it would like to have more pictures of Monterey for the town website.

Maggie Leonard, Planning Board chair, talked with the Select Board about the right-to-farm law, which was to be heard at a public meeting on Thursday, March 30.

A representative of National Grid and Verizon petitioned to install one new utility pole on Griswold Road, near its intersection with Art School Road.

Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier announced that Monterey is once again part of the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation network. Those wishing to use the service are advised to call 528-4773 on Tuesdays to arrange transportation to Great Barrington.

—Laurily K. Epstein

Proposition 2½: Wiggle Room

On March 20th the Select Board hosted a posted, advertised informational meeting on a Proposition 2½ override question that will be placed on the ballot at this year's annual Town Meeting/election, requesting voters to allow the town to assess additional monies in taxes.

Proposition 2½ was enacted in 1980 to put in place certain mechanisms for how town budgets are regulated. It established a town's levy ceiling (the maximum amount it can tax its residents, with certain exceptions) at 2½ percent of the town's assessed value, which is the equivalent of a \$25 per \$1,000 tax rate. It also established a levy limit (the maximum amount a town can raise its taxes from year to year) at 2½ percent above its prior year's levy limit, plus new growth (the taxable value of new homes, improvements to existing homes, and the creation of new lots), plus overrides. The levy limit should not be confused with the levy, which is the actual amount town voters appropriate in any given year. The difference between the levy limit and the levy is called excess levy capacity, the amount the town could have raised in taxes but did not.

In 2001, Monterey's excess levy capacity was \$115,910. This amount could be relied on for unanticipated shortfalls in federal and state aid, which affect budgets negatively. Over the past five years, due largely to cuts in our town's share of Lottery monies, Chapter 70 and 71 monies (which affect school budgets and ultimately town budgets), double-digit increases in health insurance and



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pension costs, inflation, and increases in regulations and unfunded mandates, this cushion—our excess levy capacity—has been reduced to a mere \$70.

There is a trend in Massachusetts to shift the burden of raising revenues onto local real estate taxes, which must now foot the bill not only for the level of services the town wants and needs, but for more of what it is required to provide. Each year that government entities decrease local aid, mandate stricter regulations (such as through the EPA), or enact certain legislation (such as the No Child Left Behind Act), this burden increases; whether you agree or disagree with them, they are a fact of budgetary life.

In light of this, Monterey has no wiggle room left to respond adequately to exigencies caused by unpredictable revenue shortfalls from outside sources. The question you will see on your ballot, which asks voters to allow the town to assess an additional \$300,000 in taxes, will remedy this situation for the foreseeable future. We ask for this in order to meet the challenge of developing a comprehensive budget that preserves our services where possible, while maintaining funds for

capital expenditures of a non-recurring nature and minimizing our debt.

Please remember that raising the levy limit by ballot vote provides the town with an *option*; it is *not* an appropriation of funds. This is done, as always, at town meeting, where the actual amount of the next fiscal year's appropriations will be decided by voters.

If anyone has any questions on Proposition 2½, please contact the Select Board. There will be an informational meeting on Friday, April 28, at 7 p.m., at the Firehouse, during which both the proposed budget and the ballot question will be discussed. If there is enough interest, another Proposition 2½ informational meeting can be scheduled sooner, in order to give everyone a chance to ask questions. Again, please let the Select Board know.

Thank you for your support and for your participation in town government. It's a community effort and our best form of democracy.

— Monterey Select Board, Assessor,
Finance Committee, Town Accountant

Education Surveys

Education surveys are available online at the town website, Monterey-ma.org, or at the Town Office. It is not too late to fill yours out. The deadline is the end of April. We will compile information and discuss it at the May 15th Select Board meeting. Please check at Town Hall or the town website for upcoming meetings.

— Monterey Education Committee

Cruiser Donated to Monterey Police Department

After learning that the 1996 Monterey police cruiser was beyond repair Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus was faced with the dilemma of how the town could get along without it and how we would replace it. Backhaus wanted to replace it with a four-wheel-drive vehicle, which would be a tremendous asset during the winter season and for use in off-road areas.

Chief Backhaus contacted Richard Jaffe, a second-home owner in Monterey who owns Richard Chevrolet in Cheshire, Connecticut, to discuss the Police Department's situation and see if he might have any vehicles on his lot that would suit our needs. Mr. Jaffe asked that we give him a few days to see what he could do. The Police Department was really ecstatic when Mr. Jaffe called to say he had a 2002 Chevy Trailblazer that he would donate to the town.

The town and the Monterey Police Department thank Richard Jaffe and his wife, Marianne, for their generosity. The Police Department would also like to thank Officer Walter Nourse, Peter Leprevost, a Monterey Highway Department employee, and the rest of the Monterey Highway Department crew, who all assisted with the markings and setup of the vehicle. The vehicle is now fitted out with the equipment from the old cruiser and ready to serve the community.



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May 6 Town Election Slate

Four town officer positions are being contested in this year's town election, which will be held on Annual Town Meeting day, Saturday, May 6. Candidates running for the contested seats are listed below, followed by the slate of candidates for the uncontested seats (inc. = incumbent). All unopposed candidates have been endorsed by both Republican and Democratic caucuses. Letters from candidates for the contested seats are printed in the following columns, followed by introductory letters from unopposed first-time candidates.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)

Wayne Burkhardt (D)

William Johnson (R)

Finance Committee (3 years)

Maryellen Brown (R)

Daniel Moriarty (inc., D)

Planning Board (5 years)

Laurily Epstein (D)

Riccardo Boehm (R)

Board of Health ((3 years)

Stephen Enoch (inc., R)

Morton Sternberg (D)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (5 years)

Robert Gauthier

Board of Assessors (3 years)

Robert Gauthier (inc.)

Cemetery Committee (3 years)

Linda Thorpe (inc.)

Library Trustees (3 years, 2 seats)

Carol Edelman (inc.)

Lois Storch (inc.)

Town Election Candidates Forum Set for April 25

The *Monterey News* is sponsoring a Candidates Forum for candidates running in the upcoming May town election on Tuesday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Candidates in the four contested races (Select Board, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Board of Health) will be on hand to discuss their candidacies and answer questions. Joe Baker will act as moderator. Candidates for uncontested seats will also be asked to attend, and although they will not present statements, they will be available to answer questions.

All citizens are encouraged to attend. This will be your chance to find out what the candidates think about issues facing the town. Informed voters are able to make better decisions.

Refreshments will be available.

The *Monterey News* plans to make the Candidates Forum an annual April event. Please encourage us by attending.

Moderator

Mark Makuc (inc.)

Park Commission (3 seats)

Leroy Thorpe (inc., 3-year term)

Andrew Shaw (3-year term)

Valerie Zantay (1-year term)

Planning Board (3 years)

Steve Rose

Town Clerk (3 years)

Barbara Swann (inc.)

Tree Warden

Roger Tryon (inc.)

Statements of Candidates in Contested Town Races

Select Board (3 years)



Wayne Burkhardt (D)

Biographical

Before Monterey

- Born and grew up in Emmet County, Michigan.
- B.A. English, Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia, 1967.
- Senior Partner, Maple River Valley Farms, 1965–76.
- Clerk, Maple River Township, two terms (1972–76).
- Term of International Service in Agricultural Development (Republic of Congo, Africa), 1976–80.
- Candidate for County Clerk, Emmet County, 1980.
- MS Resource Development, Michigan State University, 1984.

Monterey

- Employed at Gould Farm since July 1984 (except during 1993–95).

Appointed Positions:

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- Monterey representative to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 1985; Continuous service until present;
- Town of Monterey Solid Waste Committee since 1986.

Elected Positions:

Monterey Planning Board, 1987 until present; Chairperson approx. 7 years during 1990s.

- Chairman of the Berkshire Regional Planning Com. for 1992–93 term.
- Board Member of Meridian Associates, 1988 until present; Chairperson 1995–2001.

My Candidacy

Monterey town governmental organization is, I believe, citizen government at its best. We have the means to keep many of our daily community decisions close to the citizens of the town. We elect, appoint, and hire individuals and solicit volunteers to do all of the activities of local government for us. We organize town committees and departments and relate with various community organizations to make things work. The Select Board is the group which has the greatest responsibility to listen, communicate, and make many decisions with all possible cooperation with all of the committees and interests of the town.

My Platform

- To balance the demands of modern complexity with the goal of traditional simplicity and economy.
- To reflect the clear decisions of the Town Meeting.
- To carry out the Selectboard's mandate on important issues:
 1. Listen to all views on an issue
 2. Communicate alternatives as completely as possible.
 3. Decide the issue with a careful sense of the greater good of the town in mind.

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- To work cooperatively with all town and related committees and organizations.
- To work cooperatively with all town employees:

1. Communicating to employees the collected will of the Town Meeting and citizens.

2. Challenging and allowing employees to do their best professional work for the town.



William Johnson (Ind., R)

We were first attracted to Monterey in 1985. On one of our Tanglewood weekends, we found a house we liked on Hupi Road, but we really wanted something on a lake. So, we purchased land at Stevens Lake in 1986 and finally were able to build in 1995. I was a weekender until 2001, while Pam was a year-round resident from the outset.

I am standing as an Independent and Republican candidate for the Select Board

Monterey is known for its rural, rustic character, and it is important that we maintain that as we experience significant

growth in the number of homes. The management of Monterey's resources and costs will become even more important and difficult than in the past. This cannot be done by any one of the town boards alone. All of the town employees and elected officials working together, as a team, will be critical to our success.

As a boy helping out in the family-owned country store, I learned that service to customers is a key to success. I think the same applies to elected officials—they are there to serve the electorate. After attending a two-room school (sixty students) and then a regional high school, I commuted to Penn State where I completed my Electrical Engineering degree in three years, while continuing to work in the store. After graduating in 1963, I moved to Massachusetts to Raytheon to design equipment for space exploration. There followed twenty years of various engineering, product, business management, and corporate marketing positions at Digital Equipment Corporation where I was a Vice President and corporate officer. Subsequently, at IBM, Compaq, and Cabletron I “turned around” networking business units before becoming CEO of two small companies.

By attending night classes at Northeastern University, I earned a Masters in Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration. I have been on the boards of a number of small companies and on advisory boards at Northeastern,

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Penn State, Babson College, and Boston University.

Over the years, I have fostered a team environment everywhere I worked. My ability to lead a team in establishing priorities, goals and developing budgets has been proven over decades, as has my ability to conduct operational reviews to ensure success. I am an active listener with a strong inclination towards data, rather than anecdote, based decision making. I would appreciate your support by voting for me to be a Select Board member for three years.

Finance Committee (3 years)

Maryellen Brown

My name is Maryellen Brown. I am a candidate for a 3-year term on the Monterey Finance Committee.

My professional qualifications for this position are:

- Treasurer Town of Monterey, 9 years;
- Town Accountant, Town of West Stockbridge;
- Treasurer, Southern Berkshire Regional School District, 2 years;
- Business Administrator, Southern Berkshire Regional School District, 7 years.

I have lived in Monterey since 1965. My two children were raised here, and both graduated from Mount Everett.

I would be honored to serve on the Finance Committee, and I believe the

committee would benefit from my many years in municipal finance.

Dan Moriarty

I am currently Chair of the Monterey Finance Committee and have served on the committee for the past 12 years, and with your help and support I hope to serve the town for another 3 years. During my tenure I have represented the town's tax payers under 4 Select Boards and have been responsible for many changes in town finance. When I first came on board I worked to initiate the centralization of town records and establish the first data base for intra-departmental access and coordination. In 1997, I worked with the Select Board to create the first 25-year plan for capital expenditures. This minimized the spikes in the town budget by using the stabilization fund to level fund capital expenses. I initiated the current information meeting format to allow for a forum of open dialog to better understand the important issues leading into our annual town meetings. I established the first municipal salary schedule in town to cover the highway and police employees. As chair of this committee I have worked closely with the current Select Board and my fellow finance committee members, Debra Mielke and Maureen Haugh, to establish a full disclosure policy pertaining to town expenses and appropriations.

To accomplish our goals I hope to serve with the next Finance Committee team.

I am currently working on the committee to review and streamline our current Department of Buildings operations.

I have been a town resident since 1985 and plan on spending many more happy and healthy years in Monterey.

I live with my wife, Marcy, an RN who teaches the LPN program at BCC. I have 3 grown boys who have given us 6 wonderful grandchildren.

My background is as follows:

- 1963-1973, Member of the NYPD and NYFD.
- Attended CUNY and majored in Public Administration and Criminal Justice.
- From 1977 until the present I have worked in the direct marketing field within the advertising industry.
- I currently own "NameWorks Direct," an agency specializing in creative design, print, and database management for direct marketers throughout the east coast.
- I have been guest lecturer at Marymount College in Westchester, NY, in the MBA program, discussing databases as used in the direct marketing field.

I am running on the Democratic ticket and thank you for your vote.





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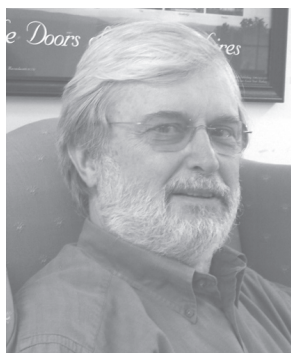
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Planning Board (5 years)



Riccardo Boehm

An important task for the Planning Board is to ensure that zoning regulations are sensible and represent the interests of all the residents of Monterey. An elected Planning Board has a special role to democratically counterbalance the Select Board, the Board of Assessors, and the Finance Committee by taking a longer view of the town's future.

I am very concerned that median income people who have grown up in Monterey are unable to buy a home for their family in the village. Older homeowners who may want to downsize and make their homes available to their children are unable to find an affordable place to live. Much of the reason that homes in Monterey are so expensive is because zoning requires large building lots and extensive frontage. The regulations for a two-family home require even more acreage than two single-family homes. Does that make sense? Clustering of homes would permit

preservation of open space but there is no incentive to do so. Over the years Monterey will change, but I feel uncomfortable with the town becoming an enclave affordable only to those with high incomes.

I have served on the Planning Board as a volunteer in the past, and on the Board of Assessors. My broad experience and balanced approach to planning will be helpful to the Planning Board and to the Town of Monterey. I will work hard to represent the general population and not just the narrow interests of those who either want preserve Monterey unchanged, or those others who want rapid overdevelopment. If you have questions or concerns, please visit me in the Monterey General Store, where I can be found most mornings. Please come to the Candidates Forum to hear us and ask questions. I respectfully ask for you vote in May at the town meeting. Thank you.

Laurily Epstein

My husband and I bought a second home in Monterey in 1997, which became my full-time residence after my husband's death five years ago. Like many others who have chosen to retire in Monterey, I am engaged in a variety of community activities. Here at home I write the monthly town report column for the *Monterey News*. I was appointed by the Select Board as the Chairman of the Monterey Agricultural Commission, and am pleased that we have a right-to-farm bylaw on the Warrant for our May 6 Annual Town Meeting. I have

been a member of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust board since last spring. And after learning about the goals of the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House, I offered to organize the September 2nd tag sale to raise money and awareness for our future community center.

I have served on the board of Berkshire Grown since 2002, and have been the board president since 2003. I am also a member of the board of Project Native, a group of young gardeners who are reintroducing native plants to gardens around the Berkshires.

My doctorate was in Political Science, which I taught at Washington University (St. Louis) and Rutgers College. I was the director of public opinion polling for NBC News for a decade, and then moved into community work, organizing New York City walking tours for the Municipal Art Society and eventually writing a book about sculpture parks and gardens in America. Currently I am a freelance writer, specializing in articles about local agriculture, farmers, and, best of all, food.

I would like to serve on the Planning Board to help fashion a community response to the development pressures affecting the southern Berkshires. My connections with Berkshire Grown, the Land Trust, Project Native, and the Agricultural Commission have shaped my belief in the integrity of the land, the necessity for local agriculture, the need for appropriate open space, and the necessity for sensible standards of stewardship.

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Board of Health (3 years)



Stephen Enoch

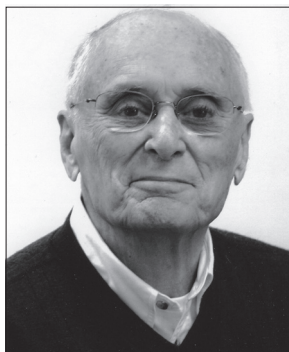
It has been my pleasure to serve as a member of Monterey's Board of Health since May of 2001 when I was appointed by the Select Board. I subsequently was elected for a three-year term in 2003. During that time I have served as chair of the board for three years.

In order to better perform the varied responsibilities the Board of Health oversees, I have undergone training in the following areas: Title 5, NIMS (National Incident Management System), Serv-Safe (food safety), Beaver Management, Local Health Emergency Preparedness and Response for H5N1 virus. I have also recently been appointed "Inspector of Animals" by the Department of Agriculture and Resources.

I received a Bachelors of Arts from Elizabethtown College where I studied Psychology and Music Therapy. After graduation I did volunteer work, including working at a nonsectarian childcare center in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I then moved to Monterey as an employee of Gould Farm in 1994. I currently live there with my wife, Mari, and our two children and work as Manager of the Garden Department. The close proximity of my work and my flexible hours enable me to respond

to Board of Health issues promptly when the occasion arises.

During my twelve years in town I have enjoyed being a part of the Monterey community. Whether through playing music at Lakefest as a member of "Bottom of the Bucket," milking goats at Rawson Brook Farm, or serving as a member of the Board of Health, it has been a pleasure for me to be involved in my community. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue my service as a member of the Board of Health. Thank you for your support.



Morton Sternberg

My wife, Ruth, and I have been full-time residents for the past two years, and I feel that it is now time for me to contribute to the Town of Monterey. I am seeking a seat on the Board of Health because I believe that my education and work experience make me uniquely qualified to serve on this important board.

I received a BMS in Engineering from Syracuse University. I have maintained an up-to-date Professional Engineer license in Massachusetts and am proud to be veteran of the United States Air Force.

Building Department Support Committee

Building Department Support Committee—William "BJ" Johnson, chair; Kenn Basler; Dan Moriarty; and Brian Puntin—was mandated by the Select Board to review the workload of the Building Department. The committee presented an initial report to the Select Board on March 13. (See the town news article, p. 3, for details.) The committee would like to hear from as many of our Monterey neighbors as possible with any comments or concerns. Please contact BJ Johnson at 528-4611 or by email at bjjohnson@direcway.com. If you wish to meet with the committee, we will be pleased to set up a time for that. There will be an informational meeting on Monday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. All are invited to attend.

— Bill Johnson

I have been a project manager in the design and construction of chemical plants and industrial power plants for companies in Connecticut. I have also been self-employed in home construction, a pre-purchase home inspector, and have designed and installed septic systems.

I am proud to have been endorsed by the Democratic Caucus, and if elected look forward to attending any courses or seminars that would benefit my service to the Board of Health.

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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Introductions from Uncontested Candidates

Planning Board (3 years)



Steve Rose

I would like to express my interest in continuing to serve on the Monterey Planning Board. After serving on the Planning Board since last August, I believe my views are beneficial to the planning process, and my past experience in town government brings fresh ideas to the board.

I work as a news photographer for the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Berkshire Eagle*. This job allows me the flexibility and time to devote to public service, which I have always had a passion for. I graduated from Monument Mountain Regional High School in 1980, received a BA in political science from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 1984, and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to discuss the future of democracy with European students at the University of Colorado in Boulder in the summer of 1984.

I have owned a house in Monterey since 2002 and relocated here in 2004 from Falmouth, Massachusetts, where I worked as a photojournalist for 18 years. While living in Falmouth I was an elected town meeting member, an elected member of the Falmouth Town Democratic Committee, president of the Falmouth Fishermen's Association, and a candidate for selectman.

Monterey faces the same challenge that many beautiful towns are now faced with: fast-paced development of homes. I grew up in the Berkshires, but having lived on Cape Cod I know all too well how development out of control, often fueled by greed, can change the face of a town, has negative environmental impact,

and puts a strain on town services and infrastructure.

I would like to continue to help shape the future of Monterey and influence policy on development so the town maintains its rural beauty and charm and continues to provide maximum protection of environmental assets.

Park Commission (3 years)



Andrew Shaw

Let me start by saying what an honor it is to be nominated for a position on the Park Commission.

I have been a resident of Monterey for over twenty-three years, and I have nothing but love and respect for the town and its residents. I grew up playing in Greene Park and have been going to the Monterey beach every summer. It was at Lake Garfield that I learned how to swim,

thanks to the swimming lessons that were provided by the Park Commission.

My formal education began as a student of the Monterey Kindergarten class of 1989. Since then, I have graduated from Mount Everett Regional High School in Sheffield in 2001 and I received a Bachelors Degree in the field of Communications from Curry College in 2005. I am currently employed at the Big Y in Great Barrington as a grocery clerk, but I have been actively pursuing an on-air radio career for the past several months.

I would enjoy being a member of the Park Commission. I want to be active in maintaining the beaches and parks so they can be enjoyed by the citizens of Monterey. I also want to provide activities that would be enjoyable to the community. As I have mentioned, I grew up in this town and I want to ensure that the rich opportunities for recreation that I had as a youth are available to today's young Monterey residents. In addition, I would enjoy planning new recreational opportunities for all of Monterey's citizens. The town of Monterey had given me so much in my life, and I have reached the point where I feel it is my duty to contribute to my community. The ambition of a younger individual will be beneficial to the town.

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Planning Board News

At a public hearing on Thursday, March 23, the Planning Board was sent a clear message by concerned townspeople who were present mainly to voice their opposition to a proposed bylaw to allow Accessory Dwelling Units on certain properties in Monterey, although the opposition was not limited to the ADU proposal. I will review the highlights; if you have a copy of the Zoning Bylaws you might want to grab it now.

The hearing opened at 7 p.m. with a presentation of terms from the Zoning Bylaws, Section II. Definitions that the Planning Board was proposing to amend. The first term, Agricultural Use, was explained by Planning Board member Brian Puntin and is a proposal to make commercial stables and commercial greenhouses a use by right in the Agricultural/Residential District. The current bylaw definition of Agricultural Use is as follows: "Any use of land for the purpose of raising agricultural products, livestock, poultry or dairy products, including necessary farm structures, vehicles and equipment. This does not include kennels, commercial stables, commercial greenhouses or slaughterhouses." The Planning Board's proposal would allow horse farms and greenhouses to be considered an Agricultural Use in the bylaws. The proposal has a foundation in our community's support of agricultural pursuits and agricultural land use in Monterey, and in a desire to foster these values through the zoning bylaws. Citizens weighed in with their opinions, most notably Joe Baker, who pointed out that commercial greenhouses sometimes have lights that are on all night. Baker said that the town needs to review

such projects, via the Special Permits procedure, prior to construction so that the rights and concerns of neighbors can be considered. The Planning Board's stance was that it makes no sense to have horse farms and greenhouses in the same category as kennels (which obviously can make a lot of noise) and slaughterhouses (blood and guts flying around). After the hearing the Planning Board voted to put this amendment proposal on the Warrant for the Town Meeting.

Also proposed was an amendment to Section VI. Table of Minimums and Maximums. Footnotes section. The proposal, introduced by Janet Cathcart, would add footnote "f" to Section VI, exempting retaining walls associated with approved septic systems from the property line setback requirements. If a property owner has an approved septic design that the Board of Health has determined can only be constructed within the setback area (a situation that has occurred on small, nonconforming lots), then the property owner cannot be refused because of having a "structure" in the setback. This is to avoid double jeopardy: i.e., permission from the Board of Health but denial of a special permit for construction.

At last the Planning Board presented the Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw proposal, which would allow on lots of 2 acres construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit of 800 square feet by right in an existing home or out-building, and by special permit in any new construction. As previously stated most, voters present thought the proposal was madness and would set Monterey on a course of overcrowding and suburbanization. Michèle Miller thought the proposal was a terrible idea that would subvert two-acre zoning and

lead to a potential doubling of the density on all two-acre lots.

Miller wondered why, with all the information that land-use planning expert Joel Russell had supplied, the Planning Board decided to work on ADU's. Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard explained that there had been a lot of concern around town about the lack of affordable housing and the high land values effectively keeping young families and others from living in Monterey. To Leonard this seemed like a good solution in that it would put the power of developing affordable housing in the hands of townspeople. Miller reminded the Planning Board that according to the state, ADU's would not qualify as affordable housing. Leonard acknowledged that ADU's may not fit the state definition but would in fact be affordable housing in Monterey. Planning Board member Janet Cathcart added that also at stake is "the rights of individuals to decide how they want to live on their property." Planning Board member (and former chair) Wayne Burkhart said that ADU's harken back to times when families lived in closer proximity: "We have gotten so far from the patterns of building that used to be prevalent in these small towns."

Select Board member Jon Sylbert stated that the growth would be exponential, with development proceeding apace in Monterey as it has with the creation of new lots, plus the additional ADU development on current lots. Carol

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Edelman voiced her opposition, saying that already in Monterey *with* the Special Permit process rights of neighbors and abutters are impinged upon. "ADU's with no special permits?" Carol said. "It's a bad idea." Nanette Hucknall weighed in, adding that "People moved here, I moved here, because of two-acre zoning and the low density that comes with it. If Monterey goes forward with this proposal it would destroy all that." Joe Baker said that his main problem with the proposal was that it gives rights that would lead to greater density with "no guarantee for more open land." Baker went on in a more philosophical tone, saying that many citizens are worried about "more cars, more people, etc.," and that it is "the job of the Planning Board to "think ahead and guide us to what our community will become." Barbara Dahlman explained that she and her husband own a two-acre piece and if the abutters decided to construct an ADU, "It would destroy our privacy."

Jon Sylbert stated that the key to success with ADU's (if there is to be any success with ADU's) would be to only allow for attached Accessory Dwelling Units and to make the square footage smaller like Great Barrington's: 650 square feet for an attached in-law apartment. Planning Board member Cindy Hoogs remarked on how small an area that would be to live in. Sylbert added that the main thing is to balance the rights of the individual with the rights of the community. Ken Basler summed up the situation, saying that the main problem with ADU's is it's "too much, too soon."

After the public hearing was adjourned, the Planning Board discussed the options and a majority (5-1) voted to not bring the ADU proposal for a vote at the annual Town Meeting. Board member Stephen Rose was the dissenting vote: "I think it would be great to debate this on the floor of the Town Meeting." Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard responded, "There are just too many concerned citizens expressing their opposition. I don't want to not acknowledge that. Perhaps when we present a Master Plan, and ADU's can be seen in that context, then people will be more in favor of them."

— Maggie Leonard, Chair
Monterey Planning Board

Town Trees

The Monterey Select Board acknowledges the concerns of all landowners regarding town trees abutting their property. Almost two months ago, representatives of National Grid surveyed the trees considered hazardous with Operations Director Maynard Forbes and Tree Warden Roger Tryon, and a detailed tree list and action plan was developed. We were led to believe that there was a consensus among the parties involved.

Only within the past two weeks, however, did the Tree Warden alert us that he had concerns about some of the actions taken by the Tamarack Tree Company. Having let a month elapse without taking any action, the Tree Warden proposed halting all work and holding a hearing on hundreds of trees, many of which posed a hazard. The Tree Warden's authority to hold a hearing extends only to trees not designated as a hazard. Although a meeting was held to review this issue and resolve concerns in a timely way, it had no legal standing according to Massachusetts General Laws.

Tamarack's contract will soon be over. What is essential is that hazardous trees are properly dealt with while Tamarack is available. This tree work represents an enormous savings to the town in time and money.

At the meeting on March 15, an agreement was reached between the parties that they would review the trees again on March 21. The result of that survey is attached. We consider this matter to be resolved.

— Michèle Miller, Select Board Chair

Tree Warden's List of Town Trees to Be Saved

The following list represents the trees the Tree Warden of Monterey, Roger Tryon, has asked me and the power company not to cut down. He has stated that they are of no danger and by doing so has accepted all responsibility/liability, for any future problems. These were trees scheduled to be cut by the power company with my approval as hazardous trees.

Main Road

Pole 38, oak by R Gero
Pole 75, oak overhang
Pole 18 oak overhang, by Happenstatds
Pole 93 Maple lead by old mail boxes
Pole 103 Ash leader by stone house

Pixley Road

Pole 14, large maple by Hopkins
Pole 17, oak
Pole 18, red oak
Pole 19 oak
Pole 41 small oak
Pole 45 cherry on lawn
Pole 52 to 56 Oak overhang

Curtis Road

Pole 9, large maple,

Gould Road

Pole 46 front lead out of 1st cherry only,
leave rest

Corashire Road

Pole 25 oak close to road

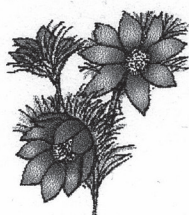
— Maynard Forbes

Director of Operations



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The Great Rain, the Lake, the Drawdown & Your Dock

As the weather warms and lakeside homeowners venture to the shoreline, or get phone calls from those who do, they discover that many docks have buckled or moved off their supports or pilings. This article is written in response to queries that tend to begin with "What happened with drawdown?" in the quest to understand what happened to many docks this year and what can be expected in the future.

"What happened to drawdown?" is the wrong question. I will start from that question to explain what happened this past winter, what the purpose of drawdown is, and then try to encourage a timely discussion about issues related to drawdown and the health of the lake—but not related to your dock. It is common and easy to mix "apples and oranges" in the discussion so read the complete article for the full explanation.

The Quick Answer

Drawdown never was, is not and never will be for the purpose of protecting docks. Drawdown has been permitted by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a flood-control measure for the lake and downstream from the lake. This year the permit schedule called for a 3-foot drawdown of the lake. This was done in mid-October but was followed by record-breaking heavy rains beginning in October and continuing into January. The lake refilled and there was major flooding downstream and all over

the area. Docks built into Lake Garfield that were not removed (or removable) were left standing in water that froze.

A Word about Docks

There are all sorts of rules about the location and construction of docks. There are rules about what must be removable. There are issues about docks that have been in place prior to current regulations. Permits are required for the construction or repair of docks. All of this will no doubt become of intense interest to many planning to fix their docks after this past winter. However, be advised, this article is not about the parameters of dock permits. Those are provided by the DEP, the Monterey Conservation Commission, and the Monterey Building Commissioner.

The Mechanics of Drawdown

"The spigot" of the flood-control system is a valve at the dam that allows the water level in the lake to be lowered to offset snow and rain "overflowing" the lake and controls flooding downstream from the lake. The current 3-year drawdown permit from the DEP under which the town operates allows alternating 3-foot, 6-foot, 3-foot annual drawdowns between October 1 and 15. The full drawdown of nearly 6 feet is the lowest level the lake can reach with the natural flow of water out of the lake through the open valve. The drawdown permitted for fall 2005 was 3 feet. The valve was closed after the drawdown reached 3 feet last October; otherwise the lake would have kept draining to a 6-foot drawdown. Then the big rains hit. The valve did its job of preventing further massive flooding

downstream. Although the valve was left slightly open when downstream flooding wasn't an issue as the rains abated, the lake did not again reach the 3-foot drawdown level because of further precipitation and early freezing.

Drawdown Permits

While attention is suddenly focused on the subject of drawdowns — albeit from the wrong assumptions — this is an excellent moment to consider why a new drawdown permit is needed and why a funding request for such a permit will be on the Town Warrant.

The current drawdown permit for flood control was the type of permit allowed by past DEP administrations. Despite evidence of the effectiveness of drawdown as a tool for weed abatement, personnel within DEP let it be known that they opposed drawdown permits for this purpose. Over the years the drawdowns in Lake Garfield that were permitted for flood control showed some weed reduction, especially in years when the full drawdown of 6 feet was permitted. It was the luck of the draw, so to speak. Drawdowns also provided a dandy opportunity to clean up debris along the shore that otherwise builds up bio-matter conducive to weed growth.

There has been a seismic shift within DEP about the environmental effects of

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drawdowns. Now there is evidence and support for drawdown as the most effective, most economic, and most environmentally sound method to preserve the health of a lake from the effects of invasive weed growth. Instead of such tight control of the depth, dates, and duration, there is support for permits that give more flexibility in the parameters of drawdowns to better reflect the locations and types of weed populations that might be better managed with greater drawdowns timed according to shifting weather.

It isn't possible to just call up DEP and say we want to change our permit. There are studies that must be performed by qualified consulting scientists, who will then act on behalf of the town in following through the permitting process with the DEP.

There is a current effort by the Select Board, with support and participation by the Friends of Lake Garfield, to reapply for a better drawdown permit that could allow larger drawdowns for more effective weed abatement. While flood-control issues would still be paramount (the folks in Hartsville would be offended to be washed away for weed abatement in Lake Garfield), the increased drawdown for weed abatement in conjunction with flood control would likely be allowed.

The Town Warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting will have an article requesting \$5,500 to hire a consultant to assist the town in obtaining a new 3-year drawdown permit in time for next fall. Additional funds will be necessary in future years to continue monitoring the weed and wildlife populations in and around the lake, along with water quality. All this information will be evaluated when managing drawdown parameters and recommending other possible actions to maintain and improve the health of the lake.

Weather Is the Culprit

Weather has caused havoc all over the world and in Lake Garfield. Much will have to be repaired, maybe better than before. "What was the weather like?" is the question to ask to understand the shifting and buckling of docks built into the lake.

— Janet Cathcart, President
Friends of Lake Garfield

Community Center Report: WOW! It's Happening.

Seed Money

The Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House, the nonprofit group that was formed to renovate Edith Wilson's house, create the Monterey Community Center, and thus secure Edith Wilson's 28-acre bequest to the town, is delighted to announce that our opening "seed money" drive has exceeded its goal of \$15,000 well within the anticipated time frame.

Given the civic nature of this project, we decided to reach out to a representative group of citizens and businesses in Monterey, seeking their active support and involvement in converting the property to a community center, and we received an enthusiastic response.

This seed money will enable us to get started. The striking level of support and genuine interest expressed by this initial successful drive will serve as the foundation for the forthcoming Capital Campaign, which will fund the actual reconstruction of the building, as well as create an endowment for future maintenance.

Architect

Over the past three weeks, the Building Subcommittee has been sifting through pages of material submitted by interested architects. The committee narrowed the field to three and as the *News* goes to press, interviews with these three candidates are being conducted. The final choice will be made early in April. If you can't wait until next month's *Monterey News*, check our web site, www.ccmonterey.org, to see who will be designing the Community Center.

Survey

In order to collect information that will be useful for our planning purposes as well

as being needed for some grant applications, we will be doing a mailing late in April that will include a copy of our preliminary brochure along with a short questionnaire. It would be very helpful if as many of you as possible would fill out this questionnaire. The easiest way for us to tabulate answers is for you to fill out the questionnaire on our web site, www.ccmonterey.org. You can also mail it back to us or drop it in the box at the Town Offices.

Currently, our mailing list is limited to the Assessors' list. Those of you who are not on that list can help us by filling out the questionnaire online and adding your name to our mailing list so you will be included in future mailings.

Tag Sale

A tag sale to benefit the Community Center will be held on Saturday, September 2, with a benefit pre-event "early-bird" party Friday evening September 1. Save both dates as well as your best stuff.

Laury Epstein is heading up the tag sale, and if you know Laury, it promises to be one of the most entertaining tag sales you have ever been to. We won't let too much out of the bag yet, but think of us when you are trying to decide what to do with those great items that are just too good to send to the dump (and send to the dump those things that should go to the dump). We are going to be somewhat selective so that we don't have to rent a dumpster to haul away what doesn't sell. No clothes, and please donate books to the Monterey Library, not to the tag sale. There will be collection days on weekends throughout the summer. Remember your donations are tax-deductible. We need volunteers to help with many aspects; volunteers get to come to the pre-event party for free! Call Laury at 528-0577 if you want to join in the fun.

— Susan Sellew

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Thunder Bay Ensemble Presents Music, Dance of Bali

On Saturday, April 8, the Monterey Cultural Council will sponsor the Thunder Bay Ensemble at the Monterey Meetinghouse at 2:00 p.m. Under the artistic direction of Ed Herbst and Beth Skinner, the ensemble will present the dance, music, and masks of Bali, Indonesia. This gamelan musical event will feature gongs, cymbals, chimes, and drums, along with songs and unique vocal styles that accompany Balinese dance and theater traditions. Skinner and Herbst spent several years researching the performing arts traditions in Indonesia with the support of a Fulbright grant, collaborating with contemporary artists from Bali and Java. They have performed in Europe, Egypt, Canada, and Mexico and are currently collaborating with theater companies in Hungary and Romania. Herbst has a PhD from Wesleyan University and is a musician, composer, and the author of the book *Voices in Bali: Energies and Perceptions in Vocal Music and Dance Theater*, published by Wesleyan University Press. He has received grants for his work from the Ford Foundation and the Asian Cultural Council. Skinner has a M.A. degree from the World Music Program at Wesleyan, and has collaborated with artists worldwide on productions at La MaMa E.T.C. in New York City under numerous grants, including the National Endowment for the Arts, New York Council on the Arts, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the event is free and ap-

April Potluck Features Native American Filmmaker

The April 19th Community Potluck Dinner will feature Fidel Moreno, who will show several short films and speak about his work as a filmmaker, teacher, healer, and youth activist. He is the President and CEO of Native Visions Arts Communication LLC, a media, film, video, special events marketing, public relations, and design firm whose projects include a multimedia educational literacy project that trains American Indian youth in video production of archival tribal oral histories for literacy and cultural preservation. He is a past president of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico and served for five years as a Majority

proprietor for all ages. For questions about the event, call Monterey Cultural Council member Joe Baker (528-9385) and for information about the ensemble check its website: www.thunderbayus.org.

The Cultural Council thanks the Monterey United Church for providing a venue for this and past Council events, including the Hootenanny that was held February 17th. We also thank the musicians who turned out to perform and invite those who could not attend to practice up for next year.

The Council is planning more events throughout this funding cycle, including an astronomy evening that we hope to schedule for Memorial Day weekend, a poetry reading, and more. Watch the *Monterey News* for details.

Pool analyst in the New Mexico State Legislature working on American Indian legislative issues. His award-winning films include *This Land is My Land*, *Blood, Bones and All*, commissioned by the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. (awarded the Grand Prize at Romania's International Film Festival in 2002), *The Peyote Rode*, *Lifespirt*, *Wiping the Tears of 7 Generations*, and other documentaries that have influenced legislation and court cases in the U.S. and Canada. On April 19th he will show three short films and discuss his work with The International Council of the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers, a group of trained healers from many countries who are meeting and speaking about bringing traditions and morality into the modern world.

The Potluck begins at 6:00 p.m. Please bring something to share for the meal, a serving utensil, and a place setting for yourself. In case of bad weather, check the church machine for cancellation or postponement information (528-5850). Note that the April Potluck will be one week later than previously scheduled because of religious holidays.

Many thanks to Yvonne Borsody of Animal D.R.E.A.M.S., who presented the program for the March potluck, sharing stories of her work with feral and stray cats in the Berkshires. Her dedication to her work and knowledge of this issue is an inspiration.

Mark your calendars: on May 10th local photographer Don Victor will present a photo show of potlucks from the past.



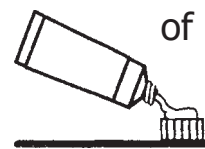
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Instant Runoff Voting Ballot Question

"The 2002 election cycle started with a bang Tuesday, with reformers winning big in ground-breaking votes on instant runoff voting in San Francisco and town meetings across Vermont. San Franciscans voted 55%–45% to adopt instant runoff voting for electing its most powerful elected leaders despite well-funded opposition from backers of traditional 'delayed' runoffs. A Vermont League of Women Voters proposal to use instant runoff voting for statewide elections swept nearly every town meeting debating the issue" (from the "On-Line Library").

Below is a Ballot Question I propose to put on the Monterey Annual Town Meeting Warrant, May 6, 2006:

"To see if the town will instruct our state representative from this district to vote in favor of legislation or a constitutional amendment to require that elections to statewide office (such as Governor, Treasurer, Auditor and Secretary of the Commonwealth) be conducted according to a system of instant runoff voting, or take any other action relative thereto."

Peter Vickery, erstwhile Governor's Counsel and now Executive Director of Mass Voters for Fair Elections, explains how it works:

"Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) ensures that the winner has the support of the majority. It lets you vote for the candidate you like most without fear of helping the candidate you like least. IRV is like a traditional run-off election but without the expense and lower turnout of a second round of voting.

"Voters can (but do not have to) rank the candidates in order of preference, 1 for your favorite, 2 for your second choice, etc. If somebody has a majority at the first count, that person wins. If nobody wins a

Bidwell House Internships

Area high school students have an opportunity to apply for a two-week internship in Museum Studies this summer at the Bidwell House Museum in Monterey. Executive Director, Dr. Martha Dailey described the program: "An education grant from Berkshire Taconic Foundation has made it possible for four teenagers to work

majority, the vote counters eliminate the least popular candidate and distribute those votes the way his/her supporters want.

"Imagine this election result: Alex 35%, Jane 34%, Charlie 31%. Under the current system Alex would win even though most voters (65%) voted for somebody else. Now let's say that Charlie's supporters all prefer Jane over Alex and if there was a traditional runoff between Jane and Alex they would all vote for Jane.

"With IRV, that would happen. Jane would get the second preferences of Charlie's supporters, bringing her to 65%—a clear majority. Jane, the candidate with the broadest support, would win instead of Alex.

"The courts all agree that IRV meets the one-person-one-vote requirement. For a long time the Massachusetts Constitution used to require a majority vote for somebody to become Governor, so with Instant Runoff Voting we would be getting back to basics."

This is a non-partisan win-win issue. I hope you will support it. For more information go to www.instantrunoff.com/.

—Joyce Scheffey

in two-week shifts in July and August at the Bidwell House. They will work during the regular museum hours from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday through Monday for two weeks. At the end of the work program, they will be given a \$200 stipend."

Students will be asked to shadow seasoned docents for several days and to read American colonial history selections. The Bidwell House Museum is a colonial museum that uses the history of the house and 196 acres of land to re-create life in the Berkshires in the 1750s. Students will learn demographics, economics, political and military history, and the lifeways of the early settlers of the region. They will be introduced to colonial architecture, cataloging practices, exhibitions, marketing, public relations, and fundraising. They will be able to identify items in the rich collection of period pieces in the museum and work with original documents from the Bidwell archives.

In the second week, students will represent the museum in all aspects of museum life: reception and collection of fees, giving tours, and using museum computerized software. For those interested, it may be possible to work in the Kitchen Garden—a re-creation of a typical colonial garden in Massachusetts.

Students interested in pursuing an introduction to a museum career are asked to call the museum at 413-528-6888 for an application. All applications are due at the Bidwell Museum Office, PO Box 537, 100 Art School Rd., Monterey, MA 01245 by May 12. Announcement of students selected for the program will be made on May 18.

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Gould Farm Gala to Honor Claudette Callahan

Gould Farm, a private nonprofit psychiatric treatment program with residential facilities in Monterey and Medford, Massachusetts, will hold its Annual Honors Gala Dinner Dance on Saturday evening, April 29, 2006, at Eastover Resort in Lenox. This year's event pays tribute to board president Claudette Callahan, a dedicated Gould Farm and Berkshire community leader. A live auction will be conducted by auctioneer Lou Caropresso that includes, among other items, a Kauai, Hawaii 7-night holiday, a rustic Colorado vacation, and a dinner for two with author, journalist and broadcaster Simon Winchester. There will be a raffle drawing that includes a 4-day/3-night all-expenses-paid Orlando and Disney World vacation, a one-month membership to Berkshire South Community Center, a hand-knit merino vest from Karen Allen Fiber Arts, a spa morning for two at Mepal Manor and Spa, and tickets to Tanglewood, Barrington Stage, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Jacob's Pillow, Shakespeare and Company, Miniature Theatre of Chester, as well as gift baskets and more. Tickets to the gala are by reservation only. Reception begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. The auction and raffle drawing will take place after dinner. Winners need not be present.

For more than ninety years, Gould Farm has provided respectful treatment for adults coping with schizophrenia, bipolar

Earth Day Cleanup at Bidwell House

Earth Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 22, at the Bidwell House Museum in Monterey. Volunteers are invited to the annual cleanup day to help with the remains of fall leaves, tree debris left by fall and winter winds, garden cleanup, and a small amount of tree and brush clearing. For those who enjoy a good brush burn, here's your chance to have a go at the brush piles made last fall. You will be welcome to join a team or work on your own. Volunteers are asked to arrive at the house by 9 a.m. and will be offered coffee and pastries. Following the morning's work a cookout is planned as a thank-you to all who participate. Bidwell House cleanup days have always been an enjoyable day of work, camaraderie, and fun, providing participants with a great

disorder, depression, and other psychiatric diagnoses. The Farm has inspired the development of similar programs across the country, yet remains unique in its ability to award financial assistance to clients whose family's resources are limited, providing the equivalent of more than \$1,300,000 in charitable care in each of the past three years.

Tickets for the Gala begin at \$85. For more information about Gould Farm, to make a reservation for the Gala, or to purchase raffle tickets, call Rita Kasky or Tina Goewey at 413-528-1804.

feeling of accomplishment by doing something very worth their time and effort.

Martha Dailey, Director of the Bidwell House Museum and an Earth Day enthusiast and participant, offers the following history of the day: "Earth Day was started in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. The environmental movement in the United States was launched then, and each year there is a renewal of environmental citizenship as communities take responsibility for clean and healthy air, water and earth. The Bidwell House is a nonprofit colonial museum on 196 acres of wooded land and fields, preserved from development. Using the history of the land and the 1750 house and furnishings, the museum is committed to learning about and celebrating sustainable lifeways of an earlier time in the Berkshires." The acreage offers a respite for visitors and school groups interested in history, ecology and hiking while teaching them about colonial gardens and the colonists' practical use of nature's gifts. They can also visit the Algonquin wigwam constructed by local teenagers under the direction of Dr. David McAllester of Monterey and hike the trails to see and learn about our ancient Indian cairns.

If you wish to participate in the Bidwell House celebration, please let us know that you are coming, and if you plan to stay for lunch. You may call the Bidwell House at 528-6888 and leave a message on the answering machine, or call Jan Emmons at 528-5985



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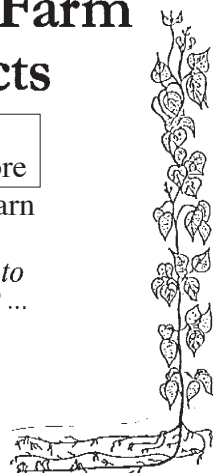
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My Trip to the United Nations

I recently had the privilege of visiting the United Nations headquarters. Four large buildings and their grounds are surrounded by a large fence, which is bordered by the flags of 191 nations. The only two countries not flying their flags at the U.N. are Taiwan and Vatican City. The U.N. has almost worldwide membership.

Although entirely surrounded by New York City, once you step onto this relatively small area of land, you are on international territory. This piece of ground belongs to all the member nations of the United Nations.

The U.N. was founded after the end of the Second World War, in 1945. Fifty-one countries signed the charter to try to solve differences peacefully instead of violently. They hoped to succeed where their predecessor, The League of Nations had failed. The uses of the United Nations have grown since then, and so has the membership.

After World War II 750 million people were living in colonies. At that time, that was one-third of the earth's population. Today, there are less than one million people living in colonies. That's less than .001 percent! The last colony to become independent under the Trusteeship Council was Palau, which became independent of the U.S. in 1994. Following this, the Trusteeship Council disbanded. After each colony was granted independence, it joined the United Nations. No wonder the U.N. has so many members today!

Although limited, my tour was quite interesting and informative. U.N. tour guides are from all over the world. Mine was from Belarus. She led my group through two of the four buildings, as the

other two are closed for security reasons. One of the first things we noticed were the eight millennium development goals the U.N. hopes to achieve. They are:

- End poverty and hunger.
- Education for all.
- Equality for women.
- Save children's lives.
- Make motherhood safe.
- Stop HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.
- Protect the environment.
- Build a global partnership for development.

Goals such as these form the foundation of the United Nations.

Displayed throughout the U.N. buildings are various gifts from different nations, all of them beautiful. One of these gifts is a mosaic of Norman Rockwell's *The Golden Rule*. Other gifts include an intricately carved ivory sculpture from China and a pendulum from the Netherlands demonstrating the motion of the earth.

Many exhibits are also included in the tour. A framed and illustrated version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be viewed, as well as displays on disarmament and peacekeeping.

In the General Assembly Room, representatives from each of the 191 countries meet to discuss major issues. The current representative from the U.S. is John Bolton. There is always a Secretary General to preside over the meetings. The current Secretary General is Kofi Annan, from Ghana. Every country has equal voting power in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly is not all that is needed to manage the U.N., though. There is also a Security Council to maintain peace and security. China, Russia, France, the U.S., and the U.K. are permanent

members of the Security Council and have veto power over Security Council voting. Fifteen other nonpermanent members with no veto power are elected for two-year terms.

If there is a conflict between two countries, the first thing the Security Council does is to attempt to negotiate the matter peacefully. Then the Security Council can impose trade embargoes. For example, if rebels are using diamonds to buy weapons, the U.N. can impose a diamond embargo to try to prevent this from happening. Finally, the United Nations can send peacekeeping forces, and if all else fails, go to war.

An Economic and Social Council is comprised of many developmental branches, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. The U.N. also includes an International Court of Justice in The Hague and offices in Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi.

Not a world government, the United Nations is rather an organization which embodies peace, justice, and human rights. This I find to be quite clear. I would certainly recommend a trip to the U.N. to broaden your understanding of the world.

— Jonah Carlson

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Looking & Listening for Blue

This time of year folks across the country are peering through their binoculars, spying on the domestic life of the Eastern Bluebird. I'm not, but only because I live in the woods and bluebirds don't nest here. Wherever there is open land in a rural place, bluebirds may be setting up house, and some woods-dwellers have made arrangements with friends in the grasslands to establish bluebird trails away from home.

When I first heard of the "transcontinental bluebird trail," I pictured hardy little birds with backpacks studying their topo maps like so many through hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Now I know that a bluebird trail is not for birds to walk, or even to fly, but for bird lovers. You drive around until you see a likely looking spot for nest boxes: open, rural, with woods or hedgerows not too far away. Find out who owns the place and ask if you can put up a few boxes, which you will then monitor.

Monitoring bluebird boxes means visiting them regularly, noticing a few things and taking notes, which you then post off to the nearest Bluebird Project Coordinator. Because you are walking from box to box, it is in fact *your* trail. The bluebirds stay put but you keep on the move with notebook in hand.

Around here the Bluebird Project is run by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. A call to Pleasant Valley Sanctuary in Lenox will put you on their list and get you started on a bluebird trail of your own, or at least set you up with a nest box or two and plenty of information. I went up there recently to borrow a few show-and-tell treasures and

came away with several demonstration nest boxes, built by a man who for years ran the Bluebird Project there.

These boxes have Plexiglas tops and fronts, showing nests and eggs inside. They are for display, not for occupancy, and you can see the tidy nest of grasses made by an Eastern Bluebird in one of them, also the sweetest little pale blue egg. The other boxes show the sorts of nests made by several other birds that may also set up shop on your bluebird trail. Birds that look for a hole in a tree or a box are called cavity nesters. In this area these include woodpeckers, bluebirds, chickadees, titmice, tree swallows, house sparrows, and house wrens. A woodpecker is not likely to move into a bluebird box, preferring cavities in trees, high up. But the others will compete with each other and with bluebirds for nest sites.

Now the trail monitor faces a moral dilemma: I put up these boxes to encourage the Eastern Bluebirds, whose numbers in this area have been in a decline because of habitat destruction and pesticide use and even because of the increase in house sparrows. Today I peek in my box and find not the tidy grass nest of a bluebird but the wild and woolly fabrication of a house sparrow, controversial immigrant in this country and competitor with native species. The literature mostly advises "discouraging" house sparrows, and how you do this is up to you (and legal). If you decide to let them stay, figuring that they as individuals have a right to life and the pursuit of happiness, then you may lie awake at night thinking of the

homeless bluebirds staggering along the trail looking for a place at the inn.

Then the next day, on your trail, you may see a bright blue flyboy diving at the house sparrows, attacking until they are driven off. You may see the same thing if a native tree swallow has picked out a box for its own. In fact, there's no telling what you'll see, and you must write it all down and send it in, as bird lovers have been doing for over a hundred years.

In the winter of 1919, a man in Huntington, Massachusetts, had a small



flock of bluebirds in his yard, sitting out a storm. From time to time they went to his sumacs for berries, and then back to a sheltered branch, where they fluffed up like so many little feathered balls and sat as close together as they could. There were twenty-two of them in a row, and he wrote it all down and got a photo.

Around that same time, but in the spring, a male bluebird was courting a pet canary in a cage on a porch. He brought it worms and caterpillars while his own mate was incubating their eggs nearby. (When these hatched, he switched to feeding his own offspring.)

Two dogs chased a cat up a fence post which had a nest box at the top. The cat sat on top of the box, out of reach of the dogs, until it came under attack from the male bluebird, which was so ferocious that the cat opted to leave the post and take its chances with the dogs. (We do not know the end of this story.)

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Whether you favor cats, dogs, house sparrows, or bluebirds, this is the time to get out and take notes, on all of it. Take your digital camera, your palm pilot, your voice-activated tape machine, or your Naturalist's Waterproof Pen and Pad, but be on the scene and contribute to the written record. You may get to hear the audio portion, too, as did F. Schuyler Mathews "at half-past five on a morning in June, 1902, in Dublin, N.H." Mathews took notes for his book, *Field Book of Wild Birds and their Music* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1904).

Henry David Thoreau took notes, too, and put it all in his *Journals* (Feb. 18, 1857): "I am excited by this wonderful air and go listening for the note of the bluebird or other comer. The very grain of the air seems to have undergone a change and is ready to split into the form of the bluebird's warble. Methinks if it were visible, or I could cast up some fine dust which would betray it, it would take a corresponding shape. The bluebird does not come till the air consents and his wedge will enter easily. The air over these fields is a foundry full of molds for casting bluebirds' warbles. Any sound uttered now would take that form, not of the harsh, vibrating, rending scream of the jay, but a softer, flowing, curling warble, like a purling stream or the lobes of flowing sand and clay."

— Bonner J. McAllester

P.O. Box 9, 01245

Thanks to Highway Dept.

To the Editor:

It is hard to believe we are emerging from another "interesting" winter. Special thanks to the Monterey Highway Department for such a great job keeping the roads open and safe. I speak especially for the bus routes and the drivers who have the responsibility of safety as well as schedule for a lot of students. Linda, Alicia, Anita, Tammi, and Paul are the Monterey drivers every day. THANK YOU! Busses from other towns come through Monterey as well, and we know they are also grateful.

For the road crews there are many long days, late nights, and early mornings. As the old expression goes, "You can't please all of the people all of the time," but these men do a fantastic job trying. Despite the long hours and tiring days they always have a wave, toot, and smile as we drive past. The Post Office used to have a slogan that also applies to our highway crews:

"In rain or shine, in snow or sleet,
We have no office but the street."

Our crews are constantly available at all hours to meet all emergency situations, getting out early during a storm to have the roads safe for the morning traffic.

New Tax Rate and Tax Bills

The Monterey Board of Assessors has completed the property revaluation and has fixed the new tax rate for fiscal year 2006 at \$5.29 per \$1,000. If you have questions about assessments or wish to apply for an abatement, please contact the Board of Assessors at 413-528-6481. All applications for abatement must be received in the Assessors' office by May 1.

The fourth quarter Real Estate and Personal Property bills were mailed March 31. These are actual bills and reflect the new rate and assessments. If you do not receive your tax bill, please contact the Tax Collector at 413-644-0299, ext. 17. Payments are due by May 1.

There is always discussion about how to treat the roads: sand or salt, when, where, and how often. This department studies materials, equipment, and techniques for making improvements. Sometimes something new doesn't work as well under our situations as was anticipated, but they try hard. Monterey has many beautiful and historic sights. Whatever is done, some consideration should be given to preserving that beauty and we are sure they do that.

— Paul Dixon

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ADU's & Building Community

To the Editor:

As a member of the Planning Board I was disappointed about the decision by the board not to push for an ADU (accessory dwelling unit, or in-law apartment) Warrant Article to be debated at the spring Town Meeting. This law is not intended to ruin Monterey's rural beauty, but an attempt to build a stronger community. Grandmothers and grandfathers would prefer to live in Monterey than a nursing home. Older teens would do better to live in Monterey than in unsupervised housing situations in other towns. The Monterey workforce needs housing in Monterey, not in outside towns. Residents should have a right to provide their guests with accommodations, and farmers should be able to provide housing for their workers. By living close together people are able to help each other. That's what a community is for. All this should be allowed in Monterey, and this law needs to be in the books. It's happening now, but shrouded in secrecy. Many of the surrounding towns have passed similar laws to provide housing, and to create a diverse community. An ADU law would build our sense of community with a bit of diversity, and a lot of pride.

— Stephen Rose



April Is for Anglers

April 1 has traditionally the opening day of the trout season, even though in recent years, regulations have been eased to allow year-round fishing in most lakes, streams, and rivers. Tradition still plays a vital role in a sport that is in many ways more of an art form, especially among fly fishermen. Literary references to the tying of flies date back to a 1496 essay by Dame Juliana Berners, prioress of Sopwell Abbey, just north of London, entitled "A Treatyse Of Fysshynge Wyth An Angle." The angle is of course the hook, to which feathers are attached. Her flies are preserved and on display at The Anglers Club in New York City.

The next literary milestone in the history of fishing was the classic *The Compleat Angler, or the Contemplative Man's Recreation* (first edition 1653) by Izaak Walton (1593–1683), meticulously dealing with contemporary lore. Today the local chapter of a worldwide Izaak Walton League has over the years been instrumental in supporting the Berkshire Fish Hatchery and has a high profile in conservation-related activities. The hatchery itself has a new mission, having recently received some 20,000 salmon eggs, which are already hatched out. Salmon are classified as anadromous, migrating down the rivers in a brackish color phase called

smolts. The Atlantic salmon is considered by many to be king of game fish for anglers all over the world, and the flies tied for them are quite distinctive.

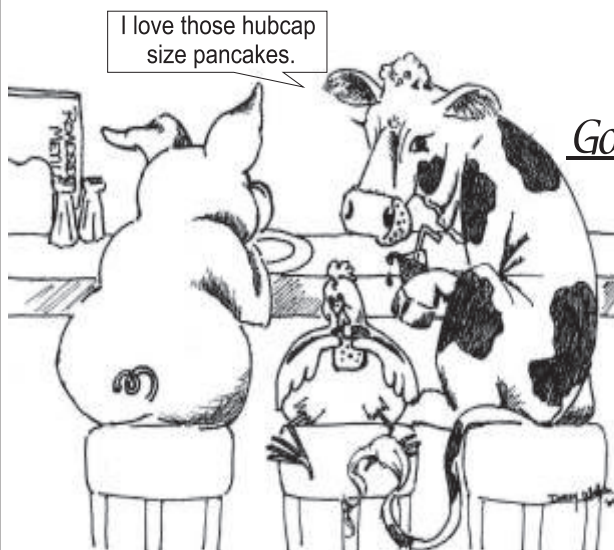
For the first time this year, at the hatchery, in addition to the usual bait-casting fishing derby at the hatchery pond, a program for youngsters to learn fly-casting and catch fish is also being enthusiastically discussed. More will be announced in the near future if enough interest continues. The Berkshire Hatchery continues to be a focal point of organized activities and volunteer participation for anglers and other sports-minded organizations, including Trout Unlimited and The Southern Berkshire Fly Fishing Association. And the horizons for the immediate future are bright.

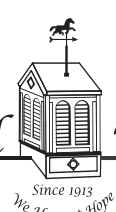
Angling is a big part of the psyche for many enthusiasts devoted to the pastime. As depicted in the more recent 1976 novel *A River Runs Through It* by Norman McLean, later made into a film starring Robert Redford, it also can be woven into the fabric of our lives. Just as a river runs through Monterey, flowing waters measure our time on earth. And as the hymn says, "Like a never ending stream, bear all thy sons away"

— George Emmons

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Contributors

We thank the following for recent contributions to the *Monterey News*.

Eve LaBelle

Calendar

Saturday, April 8: Thunder Bay Ensemble presents the dance, music, and masks of Bali, 2:00 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. See p. 16.

Monday, April 10: Meeting on Fairview Road, 7:00 p.m., Church basement.

Thursday, April 13: Free blood pressure clinic, 2–3 p.m., Town Offices.

Monday, April 17: Informational meeting on Building Department issues, 7 p.m., Town Hall. See p. 10.

Wednesday, April 19:

Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Church basement. See p. 16.

Monterey Knitting Circle, 6 p.m. at Monterey General Store. All welcome.

General Store Offering Ebay Service

The Monterey General Store is now offering a Monterey Listing on Ebay!

MGS will list your items on Ebay. Our fee is 25% of selling price. We absorb all Ebay fees and shipping costs.

Items for listing will be accepted on Thursday mornings from 8:00 until 11:00 a.m. (more hours will be provided as needed). If you cannot make that time or have questions, please email montereygs@aol.com and we will contact you to make other arrangements. We will photograph and list your item. Now is the time to go through those “treasures” you may be holding on to and get some cash for fun!

Saturday, April 22:

Earth Day cleanup of town roadsides. Volunteers meet at firehouse pavilion, 9:00 a.m., with gloves and sturdy shoes. Cleanup ends at noon with a hot dog party at firehouse pavilion. See p. 1.

Earth Day spring cleanup at Bidwell House Museum, Art School Road, 9 a.m. Cookout to follow. See p. 18.

Tuesday, April 25: Monterey town election Candidates Forum, 7:00 p.m., Church basement. Come and meet the candidates. See p. 6.

Friday, April 28: Informational meeting on Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Firehouse. See p. 1.

The Observer February 26–March 25

High temp. (3/11)..... 61°
Low temp. (2/27) -1°
Avg. high temp. 35.8°
Avg. low temp. 18°
Avg. temp. 26.9°
Total precipitation
(rain and melted snow) 0.95 in.
Snowfall 7.8 in.
Precipitation occurred on 19 days.

Monterey Youth Baseball

The Monterey youth baseball program is gearing up for the season. Players ages 5 to 12 will be grouped according to age and skill levels. The focus will be on fun and fundamentals. Home field is Greene Park, Monterey. Upper level games will be scheduled with Lee and Lenox. Tennis balls are used for ages 5 to 7, hardballs for older players. The cost is \$35 for the season. Contact Jim Edelman at 528-0006 or email him at cljvedelman@aol.com.

Saturday, April 29: Gould Farm Gala Eastover Resort, Lenox, 6 p.m. Reservations required. See p. 18.

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